

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Feb. 15, 2012**

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**THE BELFAST BOYS TO GIVE FREE PERFORMANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

NEWTON — Any Catawba County resident who is 60 or older is invited to attend a free performance by The Belfast Boys, a musical duo who performs traditional Irish tunes.

The group will give a special performance at the Seniors Morning Out program at First Presbyterian Church in Newton on March 2 beginning at 9 a.m.

Anyone age 60 or older is invited to attend and enjoy a free meal. You do not have to be a current participant in the program, but you must register at least 24 hours in advance by calling Robyn Curtis, site coordinator, at 828-292-5193.

The Belfast Boys include Alyn Mearns and Adrian Rice, who both hail from Belfast, Northern Ireland, but met in a book store in Hickory. Mearns has lived in the United States since his teens. Rice came to this country in 2005 as a Visiting Writer in Residence at Lenoir-Rhyne University. The Belfast Boys are popular with local and regional audiences. They perform traditional Irish jigs, reels, polkas and songs, as well as some of their own compositions.

Classically trained, Mearns is well-known as a consummate guitarist and inspired singer-songwriter, whose work with his ex-band, Airspace, won many plaudits. Rice is a musician and Irish poet of distinction whose work has received recognition from Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney. Rice's most recent book of poetry, "Hickory Haiku," was inspired by his experiences in this community. He also shares his love of the written word with students at Catawba Valley Community College.

Seniors Morning Out is a program of the Senior Nutrition Program of Catawba County Social Services. It offers social activities and a nutritious meal at no charge to persons 60 or more who live in Catawba County. In addition to the Newton site, Seniors Morning programs meet at West Hickory Council on Aging, Highland United Methodist Church in east Hickory, Maiden Community Center, and Bethlehem United Methodist Church of Claremont. For more

information about Seniors Morning Out, or other Senior Nutrition programs, call 828-695-6510.



The Belfast Boys (Alyn Mearns and Adrian Rice) will give a free performance for county residents 60 or older at the Seniors Morning Out Program at First Presbyterian Church in Newton on March 2 at 9 a.m. Those wishing to attend must register at least 24 hours in advance by calling Robyn Curtis, site coordinator, at 828-292-5193.